

P-999/CI-93-1176

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR TIME EXTENSION

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Joel Jacobs
Tom Burton
Marshall Johnson
Dee Knaak
Don Storm

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Commission Initiated
Investigation to Establish Requirements for
the Telecommunications Infrastructure in
Minnesota

ISSUE DATE: January 25, 1996

DOCKET NO. P-999/CI-93-1176

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 19, 1994, the Commission issued its ORDER APPROVING SHORT-TERM AND INTERMEDIATE INFRASTRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS AS MODIFIED AND ESTABLISHING COMMENT PERIOD in the above-captioned docket. In that Order the Commission required each Minnesota local exchange carrier (LEC) to submit a plan for providing digital interexchange facilities by January 1, 1998, unless the LEC requested an extension or waiver. The plans were to be submitted to the Commission on or before January 1, 1996.

On February 21, 1995, the Commission approved the upgrade plan submitted by Contel of Minnesota, Inc., d/b/a GTE Minnesota (GTE). The Commission ordered GTE to submit progress reports on June 30 and December 31 of each year.

On December 28, 1995, GTE submitted a request for a time extension to December 31, 1998 for the required upgrade of the Nickerson exchange. GTE explained that an extension to that date would allow the implementation of digital interexchange facilities to coordinate with the conversion of the Nickerson office to a digital switch during 1998. If GTE were required to upgrade the interexchange facility prior to the office conversion, it would have to add channel banks for the message trunks at an extra cost of \$20,000.

No party opposed GTE's time extension request.

On January 16, 1996, the matter came before the Commission for consideration.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that GTE's request for a time extension should be granted. No party will be harmed by the delay. GTE has offered a reasonable explanation for the request. The time extension for one exchange will not have a significant impact on the overall upgrade plan.

The Commission will grant GTE its request for a time extension until December 31, 1998, to provide digital interexchange facilities in the Nickerson exchange.

ORDER

1. The Commission grants GTE its request for a time extension until December 31, 1998, to provide digital interexchange facilities in the Nickerson exchange.
2. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

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